



# Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* **REPORT SUMMARY**

## *Performance Audit*

Report Number:  
47-280-04

## *Michigan Youth Correctional Facility*

## *A Facility Under Contract With the Department of Corrections*

Released:  
May 2005

*The Michigan Youth Correctional Facility (MYCF), located in Lake County, is the State's only privately owned and operated prison. MYCF opened in 1999 as a maximum security (level V) prison for young male prisoners. As of August 2004, MYCF housed 480 male prisoners who were 14 to 19 years of age and had been adjudicated as adults. MYCF is required by contract to comply with policy directives and operating procedures established by the Department of Corrections (DOC) as well as policies and procedures established by the private vendor and MYCF.*

### ***Audit Objective:***

To evaluate the cost of MYCF's operations compared to other State correctional facilities.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that MYCF's daily cost per prisoner was higher than the daily cost per prisoner for 33 of 37 other State correctional facilities. We also concluded that MYCF's daily cost per prisoner was higher than the 31 other State correctional facilities that housed security level I through IV prisoners. We noted one material condition related to MYCF contracts (Finding 1).

### ***Material Condition:***

DOC did not efficiently use State resources when housing youthful prisoners at MYCF. In addition, DOC should consider the need for and use of MYCF and evaluate its contract options. (Finding 1)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess DOC's efforts in evaluating the benefits of maintaining a separate correctional facility for youthful prisoners.

### ***Audit Conclusion:***

We concluded that DOC had not evaluated the benefits of maintaining a separate correctional facility for youthful prisoners. We noted one material condition regarding evaluation of benefits (Finding 2).

### ***Material Condition:***

DOC had not established performance measures, collected data, and evaluated the benefits of housing youthful prisoners separately from adult prisoners (Finding 2).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess MYCF's compliance with selected policies and procedures related to safety and security.

**Audit Conclusion:**

We concluded that MYCF was moderately in compliance with selected policies and procedures related to safety and security. Our assessment disclosed one material condition related to prisoner housing assignments (Finding 3). Our assessment also disclosed reportable conditions related to annual security classification reviews, prisoner shakedowns and cell searches, employee searches, gate manifests, employee training, and security threat groups (Findings 4 through 9).

**Material Condition:**

DOC should discontinue the use of waivers as a means to maintain full occupancy at MYCF. In addition, MYCF should discontinue placing prisoners in the same cell or housing unit as a prisoner with a true security level that is two or more levels higher and discontinue double-bunking true security level V prisoners. (Finding 3)

**Reportable Conditions:**

MYCF did not consistently perform security classification reviews on an annual basis and did not correctly calculate and record

prisoner security levels (Finding 4). MYCF did not ensure that all corrections officers performed and documented the required number of prisoner shakedowns and cell searches (Finding 5). MYCF did not ensure that employees entering and exiting the security perimeter were subject to required random searches (Finding 6). MYCF did not properly complete and monitor gate manifests to help control the movement of critical and dangerous items in and out of MYCF (Finding 7). MYCF did not ensure that employees received the required hours of new employee and in-service training (Finding 8). MYCF did not enforce cell search requirements for prisoners identified as security threat group (STG) prisoners (Finding 9).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Agency Response:**

Our audit report includes 9 findings and 11 corresponding recommendations. DOC responded that it agrees with 10 of the 11 recommendations and partially agrees with 1 of the recommendations.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



Michigan Office of the Auditor General  
201 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

**Thomas H. McTavish, C.P.A.**  
Auditor General

**Scott M. Strong, C.P.A., C.I.A.**  
Deputy Auditor General